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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 ANTHONY VALELA,

14 Defendant  
15  
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NO. CR23-106-RSL

**PROTECTIVE ORDER  
RESTRAINING CERTAIN  
FORFEITABLE PROPERTY**

17 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the United States' Motion for a  
18 Protective Order to Restrain Certain Forfeitable Property (the "Motion"), as follows:

- 19 a. One 2022 Mercedes GLE Coupe Sport utility vehicle, VIN  
20 4JGFD8KB4NA779976, bearing Washington license plate CEP2184, registered to  
21 Anthony J. Valela.

22 The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings filed in this matter, including  
23 the United States' Motion and the supporting Declaration of Federal Bureau of  
24 Investigation Task Force Officer Stephen Knapp, hereby FINDS entry of a protective  
25 order restraining the above-identified property (the "Subject Vehicle") is appropriate  
26 because:  
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- The United States gave notice of its intent to pursue forfeiture in the Indictment returned on June 28, 2023 (Dkt. No. 12) and in the Forfeiture Bill of Particulars (Dkt. No. 21);
- Based on the facts set forth in the Declaration of Task Force Officer Stephen Knapp, there is probable cause to believe the Subject Vehicle may, upon the Defendant's conviction, be forfeited in this case; and,
- To ensure the Subject Vehicle remains available for forfeiture, its continued restraint pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(e)(1) is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The United States' request for a protective order restraining the Subject Vehicle pending the conclusion of this case is GRANTED; and,
2. The Subject Vehicle shall remain in the custody of the United States, and/or its authorized agents or representatives, pending the conclusion of this criminal case, to include any ancillary forfeiture proceedings, and/or further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 7th day of August, 2023.



THE HON. ROBERT S. LASNIK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Presented by:

s/Karyn S. Johnson

KARYN S. JOHNSON  
Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone: 206-553-2462  
Fax: 206-553-6934  
[Karyn.S.Johnson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Karyn.S.Johnson@usdoj.gov)